This book was published in 2004 and was launched by the Mauritian Prime Minister, Hon. Paul Beranger and it was edited by Dr Vijaya Teelock, the then chairperson of Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund. This was the first major academic and interdisciplinary publication of AGTF which examined such important theme as indentured labour, the experiences of indentured labourers, the Indian Convicts, the history of the vagrant depot labour laws and heritage sites in Grand River North West.

The Vagrant depot of Grand River North West and its surroundings brought a new analysis and perspective to modern Mauritian indentured labour historiography by focusing on human/worker agency, social and subaltern history or a history from below approach, life stories and worker experience, details statistical analysis concerning indentured labour, the idea of shared history and shared heritage, and heritage sites linked to the history of indentured labourers and vagrants.

This publication was the outcome of a joint collaboration of almost a year between several Mauritian and foreign social historians. It is essentially an important and analytical collection of several papers that bring a fresh perspective on Mauritian colonial history, the history of indentured labourers and indentured labour between the 1830s and the early 1900s. It also contains a very rich collection of transcribed archival documents from the British national archive and the Mauritius national archives. The Vagrant Depot of Grand River Northwest and its surrounding offers the reader new and unique insights into the inner world of the indentured labourers, the lives of the vagrants inside and outside the wall of the vagrant depot and the contribution of indentured labourers in the making of Mauritius.

Selling price: Rs 250